

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 EA-11 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08 L-03

LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02

SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01

RSR-01 IGA-02 IO-13 /204 W
----- 120421

R 181712 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASJDC 0832

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 7141

FOR SISCO FROM MOYNIHAN

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, IN

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH AGRICULTURE MINISTER

1. I CALLED THIS AFTERNOON ON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED TO TALK ABOUT FOOD SUBJECTS IN LIGHT OF
MY RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES. I ASKED WHAT ARE THEIR PLANS
FOR GRAIN IMPORTS NOW THAT THE RABI CROP IS JUST ABOUT HARVESTED.
HE SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE FOUR MILLION TONS IN THE
PRESENT FISCAL YEAR (APRIL TO MARCH). THEY NEED THREE OF WHEAT
AND ONE OF MILO. NOTHING HAS BEEN ORDERED SO FAR.

2. I WAS NOT SURE I HEARD RIGHT AND GOT HIM TO REPEAT IT.
NOTHING HAS BEEN ORDERED. SIX WEEKS AGO I TOLD KAUL THERE WAS
NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE IF THEY WERE NOT TO END UP ONCE AGAIN
PAYING THE TOP PRICES OF THE YEAR. I NOTED THIS. HE AGREED
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WITHOUT SEEMING DISTRESS.

3. FOUR MILLION TONS IS TWICE THEIR PUBLIC POSITION, BUT ABOUT WHAT WE ESTIMATED IN OUR WEEKLY CABLE.

4. HE ASKED IF IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO ASSEMBLE THE GRAIN IN BULK QUANTITY AND SELL IT TO INDIA, RATHER THAN INDIA HAVING TO BUY IT FROM DEALERS IN FIVE AND TEN THOUSAND TON LOTS. I SAID I THOUGHT NOT, BUT WOULD ENQUIRE. I NOW LEARN THE ANSWER IS NO, AND HORACE DAVIS WILL SO INFORM HIM TOMORROW. I NOTE THE MATTER ONLY TO INDICATE THE DISTANCE FROM REALITY IN SOME OF THESE MINISTRIES.

5. HE HOPES ONE MILLION TONS OF THE FOUR CAN REACH INDIA BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER. I SAID I ASSUMED HE REALIZES THIS WILL BE A TIGHT SQUEEZE AT BEST.

6. I ASKED ABOUT FUTURE PURCHASES. HE SAID THAT INDIA WOULD NEED TO PURCHASE THREE MILLION TONS OF GRAIN FOR EACH OF THE TWO YEARS AFTER THIS ONE. THEY WISH TO BUILD UP A FOOD BUFFER OF SEVEN TO EIGHT MILLION TONS, ABOUT TWICE THEIR FORMER GOAL.

7. HE HOPES FOR A ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN MILLION TON YEAR THIS TIME (1973/74), IF WEATHER IS GOOD. IT WOULD SEEM TO BE SO FAR.

8. HE NEEDS FERTILIZER, AND ASKS "CAN WE HAVE MORE?" I SAID THAT I THOUGHT THE MARKET WAS TIGHT BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY WORLD DEMAND, BUT THAT I UNDERSTOOD INDIA WOULD BE USING SOME THIRTY MILLION DOLLARS OF OUR RECENT AID LOAN (I. E., WHAT HAD BEEN SUSPENDED) FOR FERTILIZER. DID HE MEAN MORE THAN THIS? HE SAID YES HE DID.

9. HE ASKED ABOUT RUSSIAN AND CHINESE PURCHASES. I SAID TO MY UNCERTAIN KNOWLEDGE THE RUSSIANS HAD RESERVED SPACE FOR SOME FIFTEEN MILLION TONS. (DAVIS TELLS ME IT IS FOURTEEN) AND THAT I DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE CHINESE.

10. SECRETARY BUTZ WILL WANT TO KNOW SOME OF THESE NUMBERS. MOYNIHAN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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